

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today joined 11 Members of the Florida delegation in urging the House and Senate to pass a two-year fix to the sustainable growth rate (SGR), the formula that determines reimbursement levels for physicians who treat Medicare patients. Without an extension, physicians would face a 27.4 percent pay cut in March, and many Medicare patients would lose access to their doctors.

“Approximately 3.4 million Floridians rely on Medicare, but a massive pay cut for the doctors who treat them would leave thousands of Florida’s seniors without access to the medical care they need,” Rooney said. “Because the Department of Defense bases TRICARE reimbursements on Medicare rates, this would also have a devastating impact on our troops and veterans.

“One in eight doctors has already stopped treating new Medicare patients. Congress should pass a long-term extension of reimbursement rates, so that doctors will have the security they need to continue treating Medicare patients, and Florida’s seniors can have confidence that they won’t lose access to the doctors they know and trust.”

In the letter, the Members urged House and Senate conferees to H.R. 3630, the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act*, to consider the two-year SGR fix passed by the House of Representatives. The House plan provides a one percent increase in reimbursement levels each year to encourage physicians to continue treating Medicare patients, and includes important reforms to ensure that the extension does not add to the deficit.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#).

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